

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY URGES CITIZENS TO STAY HOME AND BE SAFE DURING STORM *Activates Emergency Bilingual Hotline*

RALEIGH – As winds and rain from Hurricane Charley begin to hit Eastern North Carolina, Gov. Mike Easley today urged citizens to find a safe place to ride out the storm and stay there until the storm passes. Hurricane Charley will bring tropical storm force winds, possible tornadoes, heavy rain and thunderstorms to most of Eastern North Carolina. The storm is expected to be through the state by 11 o'clock tonight.

“The entire North Carolina coast is under a Hurricane Warning and we have tornado watches over many parts of the state,” said Easley. “High winds and heavy rains bring the potential for downed trees and power lines as well as flooded roads. Driving conditions will be dangerous until the storm passes. The message is simple, find a safe place and stay there.”

Today, the Governor activated the emergency bilingual hotline to provide information regarding the hurricane. The hotline will provide updated weather information, highway closings, sheltering information, feeding sites, evacuation orders and will also serve as a referral line for citizens in need of help following the event. For English and Spanish citizens: **1-888-835-9966**. For Deaf and Hard of Hearing: **1-877-877-1765**.

Counties have ordered evacuations of beaches, low-lying areas and in some cases mobile homes, because of the tornado threat. Currently, there are mandatory evacuation orders in Hyde County for Ocracoke Island and in Brunswick County for low-lying areas and modular and mobile homes. There are voluntary evacuation orders in place in Hyde County for low-lying areas on the mainland, in Brunswick County for Sunset Beach, in Carteret County for Bogue Banks, in New Hanover County for the beaches and in Columbus County for low-lying and flood-prone areas and modular and mobile homes.

As of 9:30 am, 36 shelters were open in 14 counties. For a complete list of shelters, please visit www.nccrimecontrol.org.

Counties are making additional evacuation and shelter decisions in meetings this morning and will announce those to their citizens.

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